

PATENT
Serial No. 10/528,624
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 18, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 18, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claims 7 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 3, 13, 18-19 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 17-21 remain pending in this application with claims 1, 3, 13 and 18-21 being the only independent claims.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-7, 9, 12, 19 and 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 3-7, 9, 12, 19 and 21-22 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claims 7 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice, and independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include the features of claims 7 and 22. Further, claims 3, 18-19 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 3. Thus, no new issues requiring a new

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search have been introduced. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 3, 13, 18-19 and 21 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, as claims 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 17 and 20 depend from independent claims 1, 13, and 18, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 17 and 20 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to applicants' representatives Deposit Account

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No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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